

## PUBLIC WORKS/SAFETY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

The Public Works/Safety Committee of the Willmar City Council met on Tuesday, December 9, 2014, in Conference Room No. 1 at the City Office Building.

Present:	Ron Christianson	.....	Chair
	Audrey Nelsen	.....	Vice Chair
	Steve Ahmann	.....	Member
	Bruce DeBlieck	.....	Member

Others present: Director of Public Works, Sean Christensen; Chief of Police, Jim Felt; Fire Chief Gary Hendrickson; Marv Calvin; David Little, "West Central Tribune".

#### Item No. 1      Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christianson at 4:45 p.m.

#### Item No. 2      Public Comments

There were no public comments.

#### Item No. 3      Police and Fire Update

Police Chief Felt noted the jail census for December 9, 2014, was 118; 82 from Kandiyohi County, 28 from the Department of Corrections, 4 from Swift County, and 4 from Big Stone County. The calls for service for the previous two weeks totaled 614. The majority of the calls are for traffic stops, followed by public assists and crashes. The inmates from neighboring counties are due to smaller jails at their facilities or to house women inmates. The new Police canine will be arriving tentatively on Sunday, a month earlier than expected, to Officer Chris Flatten. The Public Works Department set up a kennel for the dog at Officer Flatten's home with pavers donated by Duininck, Inc. A naming contest will take place at Willmar Public School and Community Christian School for students to vote on the dog's name.

Fire Chief Gary Hendrickson noted there have been 275 calls for the year so far compared to 225 at this time last year. The increase of calls is primarily due to unintentional activation of fire alarms and malfunction of commercial building fire alarms along with calls for burnt food.

#### Item No. 4      Receive Improvement Report and Order Improvement Hearing (Resolution)

Public Works Director Christensen brought forth, for approval, the Engineering Improvement Report for 2015 and ordering the Improvement Hearing for February 17, 2015 at 7:01 p.m. It was questioned if the City is keeping up on crack seal and seal coating to achieve the maximum life out of the street. The Pavement Management Program process needs to be followed to get the streets up to date with maintenance. An exact date is difficult to determine when the street condition will be caught up because of multiple variables such as funding, traffic patterns, utility changes, State Aid, and expectations of the Council and the public. There was discussion about moving the bid process earlier in the year and notifying citizens earlier about the potential projects affecting them. The Council discussed the impact of the reconstruction of Park Avenue and 9<sup>th</sup> Street NW on the Kandiyohi County Fair next August, and the possibility of turning Woodland Avenue NW over to the Fair Board. The effect of the reconstruction of the Block 50 parking lot downtown was noted, as it is heavily used. The project can potentially be done in phases to accommodate parking and will be discussed with the contractor before construction begins.

A motion was made by Council Member Ahmann and seconded by Council Member DeBlieck to receive the Improvement Report and order the Improvement Hearing. The motion carried.

Item No. 5      Old Business

Council Member Ahmann requested an update on the Stormwater issues, and Public Works Director Christensen stated he is in the process of reviewing the integrated plans and how they may be included in the Capital Improvement Plan. The Council discussed the review of the City's ordinance for snow emergencies, with removal of parked vehicles along City streets to allow plows to clean the streets properly and efficiently.

Item No. 6      New Business

There were no items for new business.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m. by Chair Christianson.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sean E. Christensen', written in a cursive style.

Sean E. Christensen, P.E.  
Public Works Director